

Music in Special Education

The Crane School of Music, with its strong commitment to educating music teachers, is an ideal setting to develop the skills necessary to successfully work with students who have diverse learning needs. The Concentration in Music in Special Education provides the best opportunity for students to develop these skills through specialized coursework and hands-on experiences.

Music education students enrolled in this concentration will:

- Learn strategies for teaching students with diverse learning needs and disabilities in the inclusive classroom.
- Explore creative ideas for adapting instruments for students with physical disabilities.
- Gain the knowledge needed to teach in a self-contained special education classroom.
- Teach general music lessons to students with disabilities in a self-contained classroom as part of the practicum experience.
- Explore music technology that is designed to make musical experiences more accessible for students with diverse learning needs.

Concentration Courses

The concentration contains coursework in the following areas.

Required Coursework:

MUSIC IN SPECIAL EDUCATION:

- The individualized education program (IEP) process.
- Special education law and terminology.
- The disability categories and characteristics.
- Music materials and techniques for teaching students with disabilities in inclusive classrooms.

STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING MUSIC IN THE SELF-CONTAINED CLASSROOM:

- Determining music goals and objectives for a class of students with diverse learning needs.
- Choosing appropriate activities based on these goals.
- Using music to reinforce academic and social skills for students with disabilities
- Working with students with severe disabilities.

PRACTICUM IN SPECIAL EDUCATION MUSIC:

 Weekly music planning and teaching experience in self-contained classrooms.

Elective Coursework:

Courses to choose from include:

- Introduction to Psychology and a variety of other advanced psychology courses.
- Introduction to Sociology and a variety of other advanced sociology courses.
- Psychology of Music
- Introduction to Music Therapy

Alumni

Our successful graduates are:

- Full-time music teachers working in inclusive classrooms.
- BOCES teachers who work primarily as the music teacher for students with disabilities.
- Music Therapists.
- Special Education teachers that incorporate music into their student's everyday learning experiences.



Opportunities for study outside of the concentration

Music Education students who may be enrolled in other concentrations but who would still like to have some experience working with children with disabilities also have the option of participating in Practicum in Special Music Education for one or two semesters as their schedule allows. The only prerequisite for this opportunity is completion of Music in Special Education, a required course for the Music Education major.

For more information please contact:

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